President’s Message
— Tim Johnson

There’s lots to tell you about this month. I’ll start with some recent chapter election news. At the Annual General Meeting (which was part of the May Birder’s Night Program), the attending members re-elected six Board Directors to 2-year terms: Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Lowell Spring, Maureen Leong-Kee, Doug Spencer and me. At the May Board of Directors meeting, the Board re-elected chapter officers Michael Babbitt (Vice President), Carolyn Homan (Secretary), and me as Treasurer and President, for another two years. Thanks to all our Directors and Officers for their willingness to fill these critical roles, as well as everything else they do for our chapter. I’m motivated to continue as President mostly to see through the development of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, which has much work yet to accomplish to fully achieve its goals, including the construction of the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom. Exciting times ahead.

With partial relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions, the Field Trip Committee has decided to resume field trips, with some modifications. We will refrain from carpooling, but will offer most of our popular field trips, including some new ones. Please refer to the Field Trip section of this issue of the Kestrel for information about upcoming SAS bird walks for July and August. Also, please refer regularly to www.salemsudubon.org or the Salem Audubon Facebook Page for the latest information on upcoming chapter field trips and other chapter activities.

Some exciting news from the Birder’s Night Committee. Harry Fuller has agreed to serve as Committee Chair. You probably already know Harry. He has presented several Birder’s Night Programs. He has been leading field trips since last year to various hot spots in the area. He also writes periodic articles for the Kestrel, which also now appear in the Salem Reporter (www.salemreporter.com). He is author of several books, including one on the Great Gray Owl. Many thanks to Harry for taking on an additional role for Salem Audubon as Birder’s Night Committee Chair.

Continued page 2
President’s Message continued

For the last several years, the Salem Audubon office has been in a building on Hawthorne Avenue being leased by Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD). Recently MSWCD purchased a building in Stayton and has invited Salem Audubon to have an office in this building. In addition to office space, we also need meeting space and adequate parking. It’s very difficult to find that kind of arrangement in Salem at a price we can afford. Therefore, we graciously accepted MSWCD’s invitation even though the location is not in Salem. Our new mailing address will be P.O. Box 2084, Salem, OR 97308 (which will give us a Salem connection). The physical address of the new office will be 408 North 3rd, Stayton. Our office phone number remains the same as before, (503) 588-7340. The physical move has not yet been scheduled. It needs to happen before the end of August.

Periodically, Salem Audubon receives requests from private and public landowners or managers for help with bird surveys. Usually, these bird surveys are associated with habitat restoration projects. These bird surveys establish baseline information to help evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration projects. In the past, Salem Audubon members have led bird surveys at properties managed by The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. If this is something you would like to be involved with, please let me know. You don’t have to be a bird expert but being able to identify our local birds by sight and sound is necessary.

Much progress continues to be made at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center. Construction of the new Nature Explore Area and associated plantings is nearly complete. Weed control is an ongoing project. One of the Bluebird nest boxes that Pat Gallagher installed last fall is occupied. Unfortunately, Tree Swallows occupy it. We do often see Western Bluebirds flying around the area, so we remain hopeful they will use the boxes in the future. We continue to work on the development of the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom at Peregrine Marsh. We anticipate the design of that building will take place this Fall/Winter, with construction taking place next Spring/Summer.

Regarding the opening of the Ankeny Hill Nature trails to the public, we are waiting for COVID-19 conditions to improve, and for approval by the regional office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I believe we are close to that happening. Thanks for your patience and support.

Bird often. Be Safe.

Birder’s Night
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM –
— Luis Morales, Conservationist and Bird Watching Guide

Luis Morales, owner of the company “Birding San Pancho Ecotours” located in San Pancho, Nayarit, Mexico, will be our speaker for the first Birder’s Night of Salem Audubon’s 2021-2022 year on Tuesday, September 14. Luis will present his program via the ZOOM platform from his home base in Mexico. (Instructions to join Birder’s Night via Zoom will be in September’s Kestrel.) This is one of the advantages of this technology which we have all become familiar with during the pandemic. Three of our Salem members have had Luis as a birding tour guide (Kathy Patterson, Eugenia Becker, and Judy Brunke), and all of them commend his expertise and his attention to the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility. His tours are conducted mainly in the Bahia de Banderas region, in the states of Jalisco and Nayarit in western Mexico.

Educated as a marine biologist, for the last decade Luis is entirely dedicated to bird conservation. During part of the year he guides tours and the remainder of the year he devotes his time to conservation projects involving birds and their habitats. He is currently the director of the non-profit organization San Pancho Bird Observatory, established in 2011. Luis will have much to tell us about his organization and its work to advance bird conservation. We are looking forward to this program by Luis, an individual dedicated to the lives of western Mexico’s wide variety of birds!

www.salemaudubon.org
Salem Audubon Society Online Birding Webinars – July and August 2021

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) will be offering the following birding related webinars. You must register in advance to attend any of the webinars.

Warbler ID ($12) – Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 1:30 PM includes a field trip!
Every spring and summer, a dazzling group of birds make their appearance in the Willamette Valley. Who are these wonderfully colored songbirds with beautiful songs? They are the wood-warblers with their distinctive vocalizations and fascinating natural history. They can be challenging to identify as they move quickly and elusively among the bramble giving us just a glimpse of their beauty. We will delve into each of these warblers that wander about the Pacific Northwest at this time of year. We will take an in-depth look at how to identify these birds by sight and sound. We will also discuss where to find these gems.

As a bonus we will have a field trip to put your newly acquired knowledge to work in the field. Likely we will go to Minto-Brown Island Park or Fairview Wetlands. The trip will likely be scheduled a week from the webinar. Details will be provided during the webinar.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4ufM8UPZRn-ntnCUe8cTka

Note: We will follow all physical distancing and safety protocols dictated by the Oregon Health Administration.

Where to Go Birding in August (Free) – Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM
One of the most common questions we get asked is “When is the best time and place to go birding in the Willamette Valley and Oregon?” Well, it is hard to say which month is the best, because there is something unique during every season! This month we will look ahead to August and discover some of the birds to look for, where to go around Salem and other areas of the state.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N9GiY9-JTxmoFYde2lX7zw

Exploring Nature Apps (Free) – Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Come explore some popular nature apps you can use on your smartphone to help you identify plants, insects, trees, and many other things in nature. We will look at the iNaturalist app in depth.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__v2-XghwSSGkfJ23OmEdLw

Where to Go Birding in September (Free) – Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM
One of the most common questions we get asked is “When is the best time and place to go birding in the Willamette Valley and Oregon?” Well, it is hard to say which month is the best, because there is something unique during every season! This month we will look ahead to September and discover some of the birds to look for, where to go around Salem and other areas of the state.

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eSz_Gx0DQaOKUE8Ulw9q2w

For more information or if you have any difficulty with registration, please email Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

To All Photographers:
If you have photos of American Kestrels for use in Kestrel Newsletter’s masthead, please email to the editor, mmryoung@comcast.net. Thank you!

www.salemaudubon.org
Upcoming Field Trips  
— compiled by Cynthia Donald

Salem Audubon field trips are open to the public, and we have a mix of experienced and new birders. Our field trips are an excellent way to become familiar with Oregon birds, experience new places and meet new friends. We don’t charge for our trips, but there may be a small fee involved, such as a parking pass, depending on our destination. If you would like to lead a field trip, have places in mind to go, have any suggestions or questions, please contact Cynthia at (480)283-4515 or at planres@outlook.com.

SAS-SHORTS are shortened local field trips, lasting up to 1.5 hours, and covering about one mile on generally even surfaces. New and experienced birders are welcome!

Many of our field trips meet at the Airport Road Park and Ride located on the east side of Airport Road, between Mission and State Streets, next to the State Motor Pool and just south of the bridge over Mill Creek. Take Mission Street to Airport Road (the first stoplight east of 25th Street), turn left then proceed north one block to the park and ride. There are no restrooms at this site. Please arrive before the start time as these trips will begin precisely at the listed time.

Thursday, July 1 and Sunday, August 1, both at 7:00 AM – Minto-Brown Island Park  
(Upcoming – Wednesday, September 1 at 7:00 AM)
Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Paul Evans (317) 922-7908, Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589
This 1,200 acre park, adjacent to the Willamette River with multiple sloughs, includes a conservation area and is home to nesting waterfowl (notably Wood Duck). Other residents include 5 woodpecker species, creeper, 2 nuthatch species, 2 chickadee species, towhee and a variety of wrens, sparrows, and raptors (Osprey and Bald Eagle nest there). Breeding neotropical migrants include Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson’s Thrush, vireos, flycatchers, and warblers. The river is a nursery for wading birds with both Great Blue and Green Herons seen with their young. Other river species include Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Common Nighthawk. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, a snack and explore one of two of the Minto loop trails.

Meet at 7:00 AM at Parking Lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for weather, bring water, snacks, and binoculars! Trails may be uneven so wear appropriate footwear and plan for considerable walking. We plan to be finished around 11:00 AM.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

Saturday, July 17 and Tuesday, August 17, both at 7:00 AM – Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge  
(Upcoming – Saturday, September 11 at 7:00 AM)
Leaders: Mike Unger (503) 930-8998, Paul Evans (317) 922-7908, Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589
Summer field trips to Ankeny NWR offer access to the interior ponds. We can find a variety of nesting ducks, grebe, Green Heron and American Bittern as their young emerge from grasses and water hedges. Songs and calls of Sora, Virginia Rail, Pied-billed Grebe and Marsh Wren fill the cattails and marshes. Warblers (such as Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat), Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock’s Oriole, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Tanager, flycatchers, and woodpeckers contribute to the aural experience. Mudflats provide our initial glimpses of fall migrating shorebirds. Raptors, including Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon frequent the pattern of waterways, ponds, and snag-perch habitat. Osprey can also be seen. Plan on walking a berm with uneven surfaces and going a moderate distance without shade. If time permits we can also explore a cooler boardwalk for more passerines.

Meet at Pintail Marsh Parking Lot at 7:00 AM. There are no facilities at this stop so please plan accordingly. Bring water, binoculars, and a snack! Trails are uneven so please wear appropriate footwear. We anticipate finishing around 11:00 AM.

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**Field Trips**

**Directions:** From Salem, take I-5 south to the Ankeny Hill Road exit (Exit 243) and turn right (west). At the Ankeny Hill Road/Wintel Road intersection go straight (south) on Wintel and continue about 3 miles to Pintail Marsh parking lot on your right. After passing by the Rail Trail on your left, watch for a “Seasonal Photo Blind” sign pointing to the right. There are 2 entries to the unmarked parking lot for Pintail Marsh. If you arrive at a railroad crossing, you’ve just missed it. An alternate route from Salem is to take Liberty Road south to Ankeny Hill Road, then turn right at the intersection with Wintel Road and follow the above directions. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

**SAS-SHORTS**

**Saturday, July 3 at 8:00 AM – Spongs Landing County Park**
Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

Great views of the Willamette River, along with a 0.75 mile forest trail, make for a nice variety of species here. Near the water, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and Yellow Warbler are present. Chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers populate the forest year-round, and in the summer, they’re joined by Swainson’s Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Western Tanager. This short walk should take us about 1.5 hours to complete. Hope you can join us!

**Meet at the parking lot in front of the restrooms at 8:00 AM.** Bring water and binoculars. We will finish around 9:30 AM.

**Directions:** This Marion County park is about 7 miles north of Salem. Take River Road N and turn left (west) on Chemawa Road, continue to Windsor Island Road and turn right (north), proceed to Naples Street N and turn left (west), continue to the park entrance which will be on your left.

**Monday, July 19 and Monday, August 16, both at 8:00 AM – Illahe Hills Country Club**
(Upcoming – Monday, September 27 at 8:00 AM)
Leaders: Paul Evans, Roxy Evans

Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration for this trip.

Illahe Hills Country Club has been graciously hosting limited guided bird walks. These enjoyable walks work jointly to see the birds, animals, and plants as well as to collect data for their pending International Audubon certification. This process identifies golf courses’ good stewardship for wildlife, plants, and ecosystems on the course and surrounding grounds. Walks are open to Illahe members and limited Salem Audubon Society guests through sign-up (see below). The course is close to Minto Brown Island Park and abuts local farms. Over 90 bird species have been recorded. Ospreys, Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls nest here and are regularly seen. New birders are welcome!

**Registered participants should meet in front of the Country Club entrance at 8:00 AM.** Please park in the main parking area, not in front of the clubhouse! Dress for the weather and bring water, sun block, a hat, and binoculars. Restroom facilities are available. We will be finished before 11:00 AM. Please contact the leader at paulevansdo@gmail.com to confirm your registration for this trip.

**Directions:** From Salem, proceed south on River Road to Country Club Road South and turn right (west) on Country Club Road South. Proceed a short distance and the country club with ample parking area will be straight ahead.

**Tuesday, July 13 at 8:00 AM – Fairview Wetlands**
Leader: Harry Fuller (971) 312-1735

Fairview Wetlands is a mitigation area created to offset lost wetland habitat due to development of Fairview Industrial Park. Consisting of two large tracts, this area encompasses just under 47 acres of emergent marsh and wet meadow habitats. Features include a walking trail, interpretive signs, and opportunities to encounter varied waterfowl, songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, and an occasional rail species or two.

**Meet along 27th Court SE, near Superior Tire Service at 8:00 AM.** We will walk a portion of the trails, looking and listening for various species. Please bring water and binoculars. We will finish by 9:30 AM.

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Field Trips

Directions: From Salem, proceed on Madrona Avenue SE to Fairview Industrial Drive SE. Turn south on Fairview Industrial Drive SE and continue to 27th Court SE. Turn south (right) and park near the south end of the large parking area to your right. Superior Tire Service should be ahead of you on the left.

Wednesday, July 14 at 8:00 AM – Champoeg State Park
Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

If you like Acorn Woodpeckers and Western Bluebirds, this beautiful state park is one of the best spots in our area to find them any time of year! We'll walk about 2.5 miles through oak trees and a mixed deciduous/conifer forest where we can also expect to encounter various finch species, nuthatches, warblers, and flycatchers. The colorful Bullock’s Oriole and Lazuli Bunting may be spotted as well, in addition to House Wren (a few nested here last summer) and Chipping Sparrow. This walk should last about 2.5 hours. Hope to see you there!

Meet in the Oak Grove day-use parking lot. A valid Oregon State Parks Pass is required; a $5.00 day pass can be purchased on site. Please bring water and binoculars! We will finish around 9:30 AM.

Directions: This historic State Park is about 23 miles north of Salem. From Salem, take I-5 north to the Brooks exit (exit 263) and turn left (west) on Brooklake Road NE, proceed to River Road NE and turn right (north), take French Prairie Road NE (straight ahead) and continue to the park entrance.

Tuesday, July 20 at 8:00 AM – St. Louis Fish Ponds
Leader: Dominic Valenti (503) 507-7008

This collection of ponds, surrounded by farm fields, hosts species typical of both habitats. Red-tailed hawk and American Kestrel scan the area for their next meal, while swallows, Cedar Waxwing, Great Blue Heron, and Red-winged Blackbird congregate near the water. There’s a good chance of seeing Yellow Warbler and Bullock’s Oriole, as well as many other summer visitors. We'll walk about 1.5 miles along paved trails, gravel road, and paths between the ponds, which should take us about 2 hours to complete. Hope to see you there!

Meet in the parking lot in front of the kiosks at 8:00 AM. You get here by turning off St. Louis Road onto Tesch Lane, which dead ends at the parking lot. Please bring water and binoculars! We will finish around 10:00 AM.

Directions: This series of ponds is about 20 miles north of Salem. From Salem, take I-5 north to the Brooks exit (exit 263) and turn left (west) on Brooklake Road NE, proceed to River Road NE and turn right (north), take French Prairie Road NE (straight ahead), continue to St. Louis Road NE and turn right (east), continue to Tesch Lane NE and turn right (south). Tesch Lane dead ends at the parking lot.

Wednesday, July 28 at 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM and Thursday, August 12 at 7 PM to 8:15 PM – Minto-Brown Island Park Summer Evening Bird Walks for Common Nighthawk
Leader: Barbara Dolan (971) 772-4589

These early evening nearing dusk set of two Salem Audubon SHORT walks will be on two summer evenings to seek and hear Common Nighthawk. The phenology record for this insect hawker as compiled for Corvallis, by Alan McGie tracks the earliest arrival date for this bird as May 10 over record keeping of 16 years. The average arrival date was recorded to be June 6. Nest building does not occur in this species and the pair may use sandy/rocky areas, stumps, old nests, and rooftops to nest. Incubation is about 19 days and fledglings fly after 23 days or so. These birds hawk for insects at dusk, at times, night, and day, but predominantly evening. We will take a loop from the 3rd parking lot to the river and return hoping to hear and see these birds. We will also enjoy other species connected with water including Osprey and hopefully nestlings on their platform. Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron and possibly Rough-winged Swallow and other migrants that have nested and/or use the river shoreline or cavities and woodland maybe seen or heard.

Join us if you can on these two dates. Note the evening time for each walk is different. The walks will be on mostly even surface. If the day is a warm one, suggest good hydration before you come, and prepare for glaring sun reflection and

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Field Trips

Tufted Puffins are true pelagic birds that spend most of their lives in the open seas of the central north Pacific Ocean. With a solid black body, contrasting white face, large orange bill and golden head plumes, this seabird strikes an impressive profile during breeding season. Each year, up to 20 pair find their way to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach to breed and raise their young. Puffins are cavity-nesting birds and, after cleaning out an old burrow on a steep edge, the female lays a single egg. Chicks typically emerge to fledge in late June. Join us for this field trip to Cannon Beach to see the Tufted Puffins of Haystack Rock. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Meet at Minto-Brown Island Park Parking Lot #3 (the last parking lot in the park). Dress for weather, bring water, binoculars, and eye protection for glare along the river. Trails may be uneven so wear appropriate footwear. Each walk will last approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. Once parked, please gather at the signage board to not interfere with other park traffic.

Directions: From River Road South, turn west at the signal at Minto Island Road and proceed to the last parking lot. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle and confirm anything inside is out of sight.

Thursday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 31, both at 9:00 AM – Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Harry Fuller (971) 312-1735

Established in 1965 as part of the Willamette Valley NWR Complex, Baskett Slough is primarily managed to provide wintering habitat for the Dusky Canada Goose, a subspecies of Canada Goose with very limited summer and winter ranges. This refuge also provides wetland and woodland sanctuary for migrant and resident wildlife, including Fender’s Blue Butterfly, once thought extinct but rediscovered here! We are meeting at the Rich Guadagno Trailhead, just off Coville Road, near the center of the refuge. Rich, a former manager at this NWR, perished in September 11, 2001 on United Flight 93. Walk and experience the flora and fauna who call this part of the refuge home. From the overlook you can see wetlands throughout the southern part of the refuge. Continue the loop trail through oak woodlands, listening for many passerine species. Raptors frequent the area as well in all seasons. Shorebirds migrate through this area in good numbers and they may be evident.

Meet at the Rich Guadagno Trailhead Parking Lot on Coville Road at 9:00 AM. Restroom and picnic facilities are available. Bring water, binoculars, a snack, and dress for the weather. Trails may be uneven so please use appropriate footwear. We will finish around noon.

Directions: From Salem, take Hwy 22 west to 99W. Proceed north to Coville Road and turn west (left). Continue to the trailhead which will be on your right. Restroom and picnic facilities are available.

SAS SPECIAL TRIPS

Monday, July 26 at 8:00 AM – Cannon Beach Puffin Trip

Leader: Tim Johnson (503) 507-8552, tim@salemaudubon.org

Tufted Puffins are true pelagic birds that spend most of their lives in the open seas of the central north Pacific Ocean. With a solid black body, contrasting white face, large orange bill and golden head plumes, this seabird strikes an impressive profile during breeding season. Each year, up to 20 pair find their way to Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach to breed and raise their young. Puffins are cavity-nesting birds and, after cleaning out an old burrow on a steep edge, the female lays a single egg. Chicks typically emerge to fledge in late June. Join us for this field trip to Cannon Beach to see the Tufted Puffins of Haystack Rock. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Meet at 8:00 AM on the beach on the north side of Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach (look for all the scopes on the beach). There are a couple parking options in Cannon Beach. Public parking can be found downtown across the street from Theresa’s Market (1170 S Hemlock St, Cannon Beach). It’s approximately a 15-20 minute walk from there to the Haystack Rock. There are public restrooms a block south of Theresa’s Market. Tolovana Beach State Recreation Site also has public parking and restrooms. However, it’s approximately a mile walk to the beach from there. No matter where you park, the sand can be wet and very soft, so please wear appropriate footwear, and dress for the weather.

Cannon Beach is a bit over a 2-hour drive from Salem, then another walk to Haystack Rock, depending on where you park. Please plan your departure time to get to the beach at 8:00 AM. Low tide occurs around 9:00 AM which minimizes our water encounter and maximizes our proximity to Haystack Rock.

Bonus option. After seeing the puffins, those who are interested can caravan to Nehalem Beach State Park for a picnic lunch and additional birding (bring your food and beverage as there are few options for purchasing either).

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www.salemaudubon.org
**Field Trips**

**Directions:** From Salem, it’s approximately 120 miles to our destination, about 2 hours 15 minutes depending on traffic. Take I-5 north to 217, proceed northwest on 217 to 26, proceed west on 26 to 101, turn south to Cannon Beach. Either a GPS app or physical maps should get you to Theresa’s Market or Tolovana Beach.

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**Salem Audubon: Some Fascinating Things About Birds – Young Ones**

— by Harry Fuller, photos by Tim Johnson

This is the season when many of our local birds are nesting and raising their young. Few species nest in winter, mostly large hunters like Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks. Now is a good time for most birds because food is plentiful, the weather mild, the days long.

Although birds share a few basic characteristics (wings, feathers, two feet, a beak) they are highly variable. That becomes obvious during nesting season. Many parental birds are secretive, some not. A robin will hide its nest in thick foliage. An Osprey or Canada Goose will nest in the wide open far above the ground. Kildeer, juncos, and meadowlarks will nest on the ground. Hermit Warblers and Marbled Murrelets will nest over a hundred feet up in mature conifers. Cliff Swallows will live up to their name.

Each species of baby bird has its own set of physical traits and abilities. No birds can fly at birth, but for many, being able to run or swim is enough. Some baby birds are born ready to go, with feathers and the ability to see and run. If you are born on the ground like a Killdeer you will be running within hours of leaving your egg. If you’re a duckling you will be out of the nest and onto the water as fast as possible. You will feed yourself from day one. Neither Killdeer nor Mallard young will hang around the old nest.

If you are born in a nesting hole excavated by your parents, like our many woodpeckers, you will be a helpless fuzzball, nearly blind like a newborn kitten. Your parents will feed you as you slowly grow and develop the skills you’ll need outside. Like most helpless nestlings you will have some bright, pale line on the edge of your beak so the adult birds can find you in the dark and poke the food into your open mouth.

A few birds such as Bushtits, dippers, and Bullock’s Orioles build enclosed nests and their young are also kept in the dark. From tiny birds to raptors, the range of time between hatching and leaving the nest can range from ten days to several weeks.

A large portion of the birds nesting in our area build a new open cup nest for every brood, like robins do. Some of our smaller birds will nest more than once in a year if food is plentiful. A few large ones like Osprey and Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons will often refurbish and continue to use a nest for years, or even decades.

For information about upcoming Salem Audubon programs and activities, visit [www.salemsudubom.org](http://www.salemsudubom.org) or Salem Audubon’s Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/SalemAudubonSociety).

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Remember to visit Salem Audubon’s website [www.salemsudubom.org](http://www.salemsudubom.org) for updates regarding the Ankeny Hill Nature Center, field trips, local birding, conservation and so much more.
John Cassin (1813-1869)
— by Harry Fuller

In the mid-19th Century, John Cassin was the most important, most skilled, bird man in the U.S. He was the go-to guy for identifying a specimen, a taxonomist without peer in America. His broad knowledge and numerous publications added almost 200 new species to the scientific record of his time. Most of his work was done at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. There he was constantly handling preserved bird skins, which at that time, were preserved with arsenic power. That eventually led to Cassin’s death from arsenic poisoning.

Cassin has a robust legacy in common bird names – auklet, finch, kingbird, sparrow, and vireo. One bird he named after another naturalist was Hutton’s Vireo. Now we know nothing of the mysterious Lt. Hutton.

Cassin worked closely with Spencer Baird. Baird was powerful at the fledgling Smithsonian and got naturalists assigned to military posts across the western U.S. frontier. When bird skins came back to Baird he would often pass them along to Cassin for sorting, identifying, and cataloging. Among new species first described by Cassin are several seen in Oregon: Hutton’s Vireo, Williamson’s Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Ross’s Goose, Brewer’s Sparrow, Sage Sparrow (now Sagebrush). His auklet, finch and vireo can be seen here as well.

A wealthy donor bought huge international bird skin collections for the Academy and so Cassin’s taxonomy work spanned the globe though he traveled little himself. Cassin contributed greatly to knowledge of birds in the western U.S. as he worked with every new shipment of bird skin from the many naturalists and expeditions at work before the Civil War. William Gambel had first described the Wrentit as a new species, but it was Cassin who first published an image of this species so the world could behold the Western Hemisphere’s only babbler.

Cassin worked full-time running a printing business, so his bird work took place at night and outside business hours. During the Civil War he was a Union officer, captured by the Confederacy and held in the notorious Andersonville prison camp.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club named its journal “Cassinia.” He’s buried in Philadelphia’s Laurel Hill Cemetery.

A Falcon Dynasty Ends
— by Mitch Rohse

The Peregrine Falcon chick you see in the first photo (see page 10, left) was named Screwy. Well, that’s the name she went by in our household anyway. Screwy was one of four falcon chicks hatched this year at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. My wife dubbed them Huey, Dewey, Louie and Screwy.

You’ll notice that Screwy is alone in the picture, which was taken on the morning of June 17 at 8:45. A series of tragic events already had taken Huey, Dewey, and Louie away. One of them fell from the nest onto the rocks below and died of injuries at dawn on June 16. Later that same day, two other chicks tumbled onto an intermediate ledge a couple of yards below the nest. One has not been seen since and is presumed dead. The other later fell or jumped into a tree at the base of the cliff. The soft landing saved its life, but the bird was too weak to escape from the tree.

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A Falcon’s Dynasty Ends

An animal rescue specialist from the Oregon Coast Aquarium was called in. He put the chick into a carrier at about 7:45 AM on June 17 and took it to the Aquarium. Staff there found the chick to be malnourished but uninjured. They gave it some fluids and pronounced their patient fit for travel. That chick is now at the Cascade Raptor Center, a wild-bird rehabilitation center in Eugene. Hopefully, that lucky peregrine will go on to live a long healthy life and perhaps even be able to return to the wild.

Screwy was not so fortunate. She died the night of June 17 on the rocky ledge where she was born last month. I had checked on her late that afternoon. Looking though my spotting scope, I could see her tucked against the back of the nesting ledge, facing the rock wall. She looked listless and forlorn but moved enough that I could tell she was still alive.

I didn’t think she would make it through the night — and she didn’t. When I went back to Yaquina Head the next morning, the nesting ledge was empty, and Screwy’s remains were scattered in some grass below.

This year’s chicks were the sixth generation produced by a pair of falcons that resided at Yaquina Head since 2015. That pair — I just call them Mama and Papa — were dedicated parents, old hands at the fine art of falcon rearing. But after a couple of weeks of raising this year’s chicks, Mama suddenly disappeared. She was last seen on May 21.

Papa continued to feed the chicks without her and did a fine job of it. Hope began to grow among dedicated falcon watchers here that the four chicks could survive with just one parent. But then Papa disappeared, too. Apparently, his last visit to the nest was on Friday, June 11. No one knows what happened to him.

The four chicks thus had been left stranded on a cliff, too young to fly, and without food or water. And so ended Mama and Papa’s dynasty at Yaquina Head.

When I visited the headland on the morning of June 18, I was of course saddened to find that Screwy had not survived the night. I was heartened, however, to see a prominent sign that a new peregrine dynasty might be starting. High on the cliff above the traditional nesting ledge was a new falcon (second photo on the right, below). From her lofty perch, the healthy young female seemed to be carefully surveying the scene. Perhaps she was evaluating its potential to be her new home.

Let’s hope so.
Upcoming Events for 2021

Many birding festivals have made the decision to cancel their events in 2021 due to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Events will be added once announced.

Salem Audubon Society’s YouTube Channel

Salem Audubon Society (SAS) YouTube channel will host the Birder’s Night presentations as well as some of the birding webinars.

To access the channel, go to YouTube.com and enter “Salem Audubon Society” in the search box then click search icon . This will bring you to the SAS YouTube channel. You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel by clicking on the “Subscribe” button on the page. Once you subscribe to our channel, any new videos it publishes will show up in your Subscriptions feed.

For more information or any questions about our new YouTube channel, please email Mike at salemaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

Audubon Reserve Work Parties

Every Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Plant and nurture native trees and shrubs. Attack invasives and help keep our Reserve looking great. Maintain trails. Eliminate litter. BYO work gloves; tools provided or bring your favorites. FREE! No background check required! On-the-job training! Possibilities for advancement!

Coffee and conversation after at Urban Grange, on Edgewater St.

Call Lee Slattum, (503) 364-9325, with any questions.

Audubon Nature Reserve

Eola Drive, off Edgewater, in West Salem
http://www.salemaudubon.org/salem-audubon-nature-reserve.html

See our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/Audubon-Nature-Reserve-1636890073202471
Connecting people with birds + nature

Upcoming Events & Trips

Mark your calendar!

Field Trips
See pages 4 – 8

Online Birding Webinars
July and August
See the links on page 3 to register

Birder’s Night
On Summer Hiatus
The next program is on Tuesday, September 14

Membership Form

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